

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-07
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15
USIA-06 OMB-01 IO-13 SSM-03 /074 W
-----001132 231012Z /20

R 230706Z DEC 77
FM AMEMBASSY BEIRUT
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6230
INFO AMEMBASSY CAIRO
AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS
AMEMBASSY JIDDA
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

C O N F I D E N T I A L BEIRUT 6427

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PDEV PBORR LE EG IS SY
SUBJ: A LEBANESE CHRISTIAN VIEW CRITICAL OF SADAT

1. SUMMARY: KARIM PAKRADOUNI BELIEVES THAT PRESIDENT
SADAT'S INITIATIVES HAVE SHARPLY WEAKENED THE ARAB
POSITION AND PROVEN THAT PRIME MINISTER BEGIN'S HARDLINE
POLICIES WORK. THE ISRAELIS NOW HAVE LESS REASON TO MAKE
CONCESSIONS THAN HERETOFORE. END SUMMARY.

2. EMBOFF MET WITH PHALANGE PARTY IDEA MAN KARIM
PAKRADOUNI DECEMBER 20. ON BASIS OF WHAT HAS BEEN
REPORTED IN MEDIA ABOUT BEGIN'S WASHINGTON VISIT,
PAKRADOUNI IS DISTINCTLY PESSIMISTIC.

3. PAKRADOUNI SAID THAT IT APPEARED THAT PRESIDENT
SADAT'S PRINCIPAL ACHIEVEMENTS SO FAR HAVE BEEN TO SPLIT
THE ARABS AND UNITE THE ISRAELIS. HE DESCRIBED THE
SPLIT IN ARAB RANKS, LED RESPECTIVELY BY SYRIA AND EGYPT,
AS THE MOST PROFOUND AND DIVISIVE IN MODERN ARAB
HISTORY. THERE WOULD BE VAST AND VIOLENT REPERCUSSIONS
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THROUGHOUT THE ARAB WORLD, INCLUDING PERHAPS CON-
VENTIONAL BORDER WARS BETWEEN EGYPT AND LIBYA
AND BETWEEN SYRIA AND IRAQ.

4. THE SAUDIS IN PARTICULAR WERE IN A DILEMMA: THE
SAUDI POLITICAL GAME IN THE ARAB WORLD ALWAYS DEPENDED
ON THE EXISTENCE OF SMALL DIFFERENCES AMONG THE ARAB

COUNTRIES. BUT NOW, THE STAKES WERE TOO HIGH FOR THE SAUDIS TO INFLUENCE. NEITHER SYRIA NOR EGYPT WAS LIKELY TO COMPROMISE ITS POSITION FOR THE SAKE OF SAUDI FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE.

5. SADAT'S INITIATIVES HAVE PROVEN THAT BEGIN WAS RIGHT ALL ALONG IN HIS DEFIANCE OF THE U.S. PAKRADOUNI SAID HE COULD IMAGINE THAT THIS WEEK IN WASHINGTON, MR. BEGIN WOULD IN EFFECT TELL PRESIDENT CARTER: "I TOLD YOU SO; THE WAY TO GET CONCESSIONS OUT OF THE ARABS IS TO SAY NO TO THEM."

6. SADAT HAD SET IN MOTION AN INEXTRICABLE MOVEMENT TOWARDS A SEPARATE ISRAELI-EGYPTIAN PEACE, WHICH EVEN SADAT HIMSELF CANNOT STOP. THE ISRAELIS WILL NOT MAKE REAL CONCESSIONS NOW, BECAUSE SADAT HAS PROVEN TO THEM THAT THEY DON'T HAVE TO. ON THE EGYPTIAN SIDE, THE EGYPTIAN PEOPLE SEEM TO THINK THAT PEACE WITH ISRAEL WILL IMPROVE THEIR ECONOMIC SITUATION; THEY WOULD LEARN OTHERWISE ONLY AFTER IT WAS TOO LATE. PARKER

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: CHRISTIANS, PERSONAL OPINION, RELIGIOUS LEADERS, PEACE TALKS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 23-Dec-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977BEIRUT06427
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770479-0626
Format: TEL
From: BEIRUT
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19771223/aaaaatay.tel
Line Count: 83
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 73c9cafd-c188-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION NEA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 24-Mar-2005 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 141919
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: A LEBANESE CHRISTIAN VIEW CRITICAL OF SADAT
TAGS: PDEV, PBOR, LE, EG, IS, SY, (PAKRADOUNI, KARIM)
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/73c9cafd-c188-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009